Seed Industry on expenditure on in-house research and development to the companies paying Income Tax.

Pilferage of rice and wheat stocks from the F.C.I. godwons in Taran Taran, Punjab

1222. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND *CIVIL* SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major racket involved in large pilferage of rice and wheat stocks from the Food Corporation of India godowns in connivance with the officials has been recently unearthed at Taran Taran, District Amritsar (Punjab);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the annual estimated loss suffered by FCI as a result thereof; and

(d) what action has been proposed to be taken by Government against the FCI officials found involved in the racket and what measures are being contemplated to Review and to streamline the entire system of receipt and issue of foodgrains from the FCI godowns in the country in order to check pilferage in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The details as repotted by the FCI, are as follows :—

The Punjab Police have registered a case, on 30.1.89, against some labour contractors and transporters of Taran Taran and employees of the FCI, alleging conspiracy and theft /misappropriation of foodgrains from the FCI godowns at Taran Taran. Consequently, nine officials of the FCI have been arrested. Three contractors, three labour palledars, one truck owner and one truck driver have also been arrested.

(c) and (d) Whether or not there is any loss or any officials are to be proceeded against will depend on the allegations of theft being established and on the physical verification of stocks.

The procedures and security arrangements are constantly reviewed and tightened, as and when found necessary.

Action against Regional Manager (West), NCCF, Bombay for his alleged involvement in the embezzlement case

1223. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarrcd Question 2704 given in Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1988 and state: _____

(a) what is the latest progress made in the case;

(b) whether disciplinary action has been taken /proposed to be taken by Government against the officer involved; and

(c) if not, what, are the reasons for delay and by when the position is likely to be made clear?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRl D. L. BAITHA): (a) NCCF have reported that there is no progress in the petition filed by the Kolhapur Wholesale Coop. Store against the Regional Manager (West) Bombay in the Court of Judicial Magistrate Kolhapur for the alleged irregularities committed by the officer as General Manager in the Store. The Court has neither issued any summons to the Regional Manager(West) nor it has taken up the hearing of the case.

(b) and (c) As the Court has not issued any summons so far, no action can be initiated by the NCCF against Regional Manager(West).